METROPOLITAN ATLANTA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION INC.

Strong Foundations Build Strong Communities

FYI

LESBIAN & GAY FUNDING INITIATIVE

Thank you for considering an invitation to serve on the Advisory Committee of the Lesbian and Gay Funding Initiative.

Role of Advisory Committees

The Metropolitan Atlanta Community Foundation stimulates the continual improvement of the Atlanta Metropolitan Area by sensing community need, prudently managing philanthropic funds and linking community need with community resource.

The Foundation uses Advisory Committees to bring special insights to enrich the Board's perspective and to help the Board fulfill its duty to make informed, responsible grants. Although the primary purpose of an Advisory Committee is to advise grantmaking, Advisory Committees can build bridges among people from different backgrounds who might not otherwise work together.

The Lesbian & Gay Funding Initiative

Consistent with a long-time interest in children and youth, the Metropolitan Foundation applied to the National Lesbian & Gay Community Funding Partnership, a consortium of national funders, to establish the Lesbian & Gay Funding Initiative, initially focused on the unmet needs of gay youth. The Partnership has agreed to contribute 50 cents for each dollar raised locally - up to a maximum Partnership grant of $43,000.

In 1995, the Foundation will raise at least $86,000 locally to maximize the national match, distributing most of the total pool of $129,000 in grants. The Advisory Committee will influence both fundraising and grantmaking. The Foundation intends to make the Lesbian & Gay Funding Initiative an ongoing activity to help gay and non-gay people establish a tradition of support for this overlooked community.

The Hurt Building • Suite 449 • Atlanta, Georgia 30303 • 404•688•5525

METROPOLITAN ATLANTA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION INC
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February 8, 1995

Ms. Aida M. Rentas
1004 Eden Avenue, S.E.
Atlanta, GA 30316

Dear Aida:

Recently, you were asked to serve on the Advisory Committee for the Lesbian & Gay Funding Initiative, the Metropolitan Foundation's new effort to bring support to the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered community. Edie Cofrin and David Shepperd, the co-chairs of the Initiative, have asked me to welcome you and give you more information about the responsibilities of an Advisory Committee member.

In 1994, the National Lesbian & Gay Community Funding Partnership requested proposals challenging community foundations to respond to the unmet needs of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgended individuals. The Partnership offered to match contributions to local community foundations using a pool of funds it assembled. The Metropolitan Foundation was selected as a participating community foundation and is qualified to receive a match of 50 cents for each dollar raised in the Atlanta area, up to a total match of $43,000. This challenge, coming at a time when lesbians and gay men are facing pressure around the country, prompted the Foundation to establish this Initiative at this time. Since children and youth are a target population for funding, the Foundation sees its 1995 Initiative focused on gay youth as a natural extension of its work to support young people.

Many gifted individuals have expressed interest in serving on the Advisory Committee. I appreciate your contributions of time, money and effort, as the Foundation builds a diverse group of advisors. We are purposely including donors, fundraisers, grantmakers, youth service providers, people of color and individuals well acquainted with the gay community.

Sincerely,

Alicia

Alicia Philipp
Executive Director

Position Description - **Advisory Committee Member**

Advisory Committee members are personally responsible individuals who commit to:

General Expectations

- Know the mission, purpose, programs, services, strengths and needs of both the Initiative and the Metropolitan Atlanta Community Foundation;
- Accept service on the Advisory Committee as a major, current commitment of time, talent and energy;
- Contribute financially commensurate with ability;
- Mobilize professional and social networks to support the Initiative including but not limited to fundraising;
- Serve in leadership positions or undertake special assignments willingly and enthusiastically when asked;
- Work toward reaching consensus on the Advisory Committee and bring a sense of humor to Committee deliberations;
- Avoid prejudiced judgements on the basis of information received from individuals and urge those with grievances to follow established policies and procedures through their supervisors. (All matters of potential significance should be called to the attention of the staff and the Co-chairs.);
- Follow trends in the Initiative's field of interest; and
- Suggest nominees for future service on the Advisory Committee that offer insights that enrich the Fund's work.

Meetings

- Prepare for and participate in Committee meetings as an important part of meeting attendance requirements;
- Ask timely and substantive questions at meetings consistent with personal conscience and convictions, while supporting the majority decision on issues reached by the Committee;

- Maintain confidentiality of meetings, speaking on behalf of the Advisory Committee or the Foundation when specifically authorized to do so; and

- Suggest agenda items periodically to ensure that significant policy-related matters are addressed.

Avoiding Conflict

- Serve the Advisory Committee process as a whole rather than any special interest group or constituency;

- Avoid even the appearance of a conflict of interest that might embarrass or compromise the Committee and disclose any possible conflict immediately as it arises; and

- Maintain independence and objectivity and do what a sense of fairness, ethics and personal integrity dictate even though not necessarily obliged to do so by law, regulation or custom.